



**FREE AT LAST** — Iranian pastor Youcef Nadarkhani is greeted by friends and family celebrating his release from an Iranian prison after 1,062 days. (BP photo courtesy of American Center for Law and Justice)

## Iranian pastor acquitted

### Nadarkhani released after more than 1,000 days of imprisonment

**TEHRAN (BP)** — Iranian pastor Youcef Nadarkhani has been acquitted of apostasy and released, ending a saga that drew international attention and saw him spend more than 1,000 days in jail in the face of a death sentence, simply for being a Christian.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) reported on Sept. 8 that Nadarkhani, in jail since 2009, was acquitted of apostasy — that is, converting from Islam to Christianity — but

found guilty of evangelizing Muslims. CSW said Nadarkhani was sentenced to three years in prison for the latter charge, but released due to time already served.

Nadarkhani said he never was a Muslim.

A picture of a freed Nadarkhani, greeting his family, soon made its way across the Internet and was Tweeted by Jordan Sekulow, executive director of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU), which has championed Nadarkhani's case.

— Nadarkhani's perseverance had served to inspire Christians around the world. "CSW is delighted to learn of Pastor Nadarkhani's release

see NADARKHANI on p. 9

## Southern Baptist killed in Jordan

**RICHMOND, Va. (BP)** — A suspect has been arrested in the death of Southern Baptist representative Cheryl Harvey in Jordan, according to Jordanian authorities investigating the attack on the veteran teacher.

Harvey, 55, whose body was found Sept. 4 in her apartment in Irbid, Jordan, was stabbed to death. Police reports indicate she was killed by a young Jordanian man. Robbery was the apparent motive, police said in the report obtained Sept. 7 by Southern Baptist officials. There was no indication the crime was sexual in nature.

Harvey, of Sudan, Texas,

see HARVEY on p. 9



**MURDERED IN JORDAN** — Southern Baptist worker Cheryl Harvey (right), seen teaching young Jordanian students in this file photo, was found in her apartment in Irbid on Sept. 4, dead from stab wounds inflicted during an apparent robbery attempt. (BP photo)

## Bill Causey, former pastor and MBCB leader, dies at 81

**JACKSON, Miss. (Special)** — William W. "Bill" Causey Sr., 81, long time Mississippi Baptist pastor and retired executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson, died September 6.

A standout athlete at Greenville High School, Causey surrendered his life to Christian ministry as a high school senior in August of 1948 and was ordained by First Church, Greenville, in February of 1951.

He graduated in 1952 from Mississippi College in Clinton with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1955.

While at MC he lettered in football, baseball, track, and was a member of the "M" Club. He was a member of the MC Sports Hall of Fame.

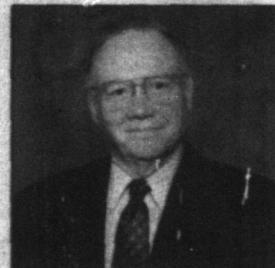
Causey was MC Baptist Student Union president and treasurer, and sang in the chorale choir and robed choir. He served on the student government executive council and was vice president of his graduating class.

Causey was inducted into Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities in 1952. He was voted among his classmates as Most Influential and Most Versatile. He was also a member of the debate team.

"It was my privilege to know Dr. Bill Causey as a fellow pastor, a denominational leader, an executive director-treasurer, and as a friend," said MBCB Executive Director Jim Futral. "He was superb in every role. No one prepares to become the executive director of a state convention. There is no school to attend, no on-line courses to take, and no repetitious training to fully prepare you for the decisions you will face, you need to take, or the reactions that often must be quick and controlled."

"If a person is prepared to do the job, it is only because God prepared him. The Lord had prepared Bill Causey to lead and serve Mississippi Baptists. Though his journey here is complete, his life and legacy will cast a long shadow across our state for decades to come."

Mississippi Baptist Convention President David Hamilton, pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc, said, "What a tremendous legacy Dr. Bill Causey



**CAUSEY**

leaves. Not only was he an effective pastor for many years, but for nine years he blessed Mississippi Baptists as our executive director-treasurer. He modeled servant-leadership for us all."

In 1954, Causey met Charlotte Rose of Winona. They were happily married and partners in ministry for 56 1/2 years until her death in 2010.

While in seminary, Causey pastored Hopewell Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. In 1957, he was called as assistant pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson, where he served until he was called and served as pastor of Poplar Springs Church in Meridian until 1963. In 1963, he was called back to Parkway Church where he served as pastor until he was called as MBCB executive

see CAUSEY on p. 9

### Inside this issue

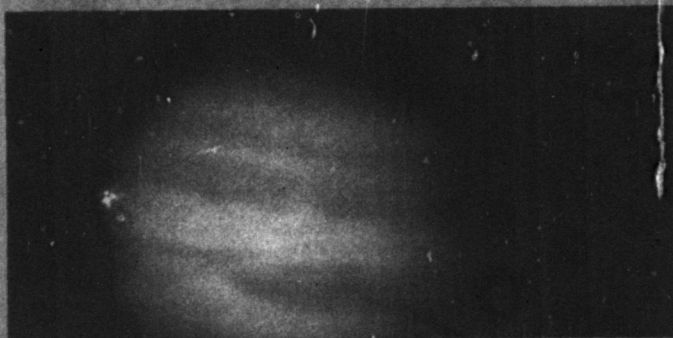
Directions.....	4
Sunday School lessons.....	
Editorial.....	
Bibliography.....	
How to Become a Christian.....	
Revivals & Homecoming.....	
Just for the Reader.....	
Classifieds.....	

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS



Sept. 11 flash on Jupiter. (Photo courtesy of George Hall)

# The flash heard 'round the world

Jupiter has apparently taken another hit for the team. As this week's issue of *The Baptist Record* went to the printer on Tuesday morning, amateur astronomers around the world were lighting up the Internet over the sighting of a bright flash in the cloud tops of the largest planet in our solar system.

What does the flash mean? The gas giant's extreme gravitational pull has probably drawn in another huge meteor or, even larger, a comet that was unfortunate enough to stray a little too close as it hurtled past the planet at a speed difficult for earth dwellers to imagine.

Backyard stargazer George Hall of Dallas was, well, in his backyard early Tuesday morning with his video camera hooked to his telescope, trying to get some decent footage of Jupiter for his latest project. He wasn't even aware that he had captured the flash until he read all the chatter on the Internet and reviewed the video.

Most of us remember Comet Shoemaker Levy 9, which broke up under Jupiter's intense gravity in 1994 and slammed into the planet in huge chunks. Some of those cometary chunks left holes in Jupiter's atmosphere that were as large as earth itself. That Jovian cosmic show and a few others like it have been well-documented and are accessible through many web sites.

You may be asking yourself at this point, "That's remotely interesting, but what does it have to do with me?" You might be surprised.

Scientists have postulated at least since the 1940s that one of the important roles Jupiter plays in the well-being of earth, and therefore the humans who

inhabit it, is the use of its stupendous gravity to pull in a lot of space junk that could be on a collision course with our planet. That's worth thinking about for a minute or two, since a single 16-mile-wide meteor slamming into earth would result in indescribable damage — possibly even the end of all life. There is an uncountable amount of such space junk out there, too.

The web site, [science.howstuffworks.com](http://science.howstuffworks.com), puts it this way: "Jupiter shields Earth from constant stellar bombardment. Without the gas giant in the neighborhood, scientists predict that Earth would endure 10,000 times as many asteroid and comet strikes."

So, how did Jupiter wind up in a position to protect the earth from such calamity? The Bible records, "In the beginning God created the heavens..." (Genesis 1:1 NIV). Is it too far-fetched to believe that God planned it that way all along, from the very start of the universe? Could our Heavenly Father have created the planet we now call Jupiter, and set it into motion to shield us from the devastation He knew could occur without His divine intervention?

We know that God can create anything He chooses. We know that God can turn everything, however disparate, into glory. In the whole of the universe, then, it is not implausible that God put into place Jupiter and the other gas giants (Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune) to miraculously serve as outsized vacuums to sweep up the junk and guard His creation on earth.

Even if He did it just that way, it wouldn't come close to His greatest miracle on our behalf. That miracle, of course, is Jesus Christ. Get to know Him.

## Five things I wish I had known

I left my breakfast meeting with a young pastor and realized with a measure of sadness that I was no longer a "young pastor." He was facing a number of ministry challenges that seemed very familiar to me. As I look back, there are (at least) five things I wish I had been aware of when I was just starting out:

**■ You are pastoring a parade.** The first time I had a family leave the church I was leading, I was personally hurt. What I failed to realize is that sometimes God removes people from your ministry for your benefit (and, I am sure, sometimes He moves them for their benefit!). It was John Maxwell I first heard say, "every pastor pastors a parade...people are always coming and going." As I have watched people "come and go" over the years, I have learned to trust solely in the Lord to bring people that would add benefit to the church. It is, after all, his church to build.

**■ The people who demand the most serve the least.** As a young pastor, my assumption was that the people who gave and served most faithfully would demand most of my attention. The truth was the exact opposite. When people are faithful and obedient to give of themselves and their resources to advance God's Kingdom, they are far less inclined to believe they should have a pastor's undivided attention. Don't be surprised when those most disappointed in you and who criticize you the harshest are those who have the least invested in the ministry of the local church.

**■ You will see ugly behavior.** I have to be honest; this lesson comes from my wife. I asked her what she wished she would have known when we first started out. Her comment was, "You will see the ugliest behavior you can imagine in the church." Now, please don't think of my wife as a bitter crank. She is not. Rather, as the wife of a young pastor, she was not prepared for the "ugly behavior" that she saw. As a young pastor it is important to remember that you are not the only



## Guest opinion

with Rob Pochek

one who hears the criticism of others. You need to be sure to help your family understand that such behavior is sin and we ought not return sinful behavior with sinful behavior. Instead, let the Lord defend you as you exhibit Christlikeness in the face of criticism.

**■ You are irreplaceable — but not at church.** You are irreplaceable at home. I spent nearly half of my pastoral ministry taking my family for granted as I tried to be the pastor everyone else wanted me to be. Thankfully, I have learned that it does not profit us to grow a "successful" church and lose our family. A careful examination of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 2:6 illustrates the importance the Lord places on you faithfully discharging your duties as husband and father as a prerequisite to serving as a pastor.

**■ Preach the Word.** Every year the market is filled with the latest books on how to grow a church. The only thing we have to say that is of any value to our people is found in the Word of God. No church growth gimmicks, slick presentations, or changes in style can replace the power of the man of God, hidden behind the cross, preaching Christ from all of Scripture.

When I was a younger pastor, I wish I had been warned about these things. As a more experienced pastor, I have to remind myself of them constantly. Regardless of which describes you, may we all be mindful to "not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Pochek is senior pastor at Raleigh Road Church in Wilson, N.C. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

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# Disaster relief rolls into action after Isaac rakes coast

**ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports)** — U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano called to thank Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBD) volunteers who have diligently served since Hurricane Isaac hit the southeast Louisiana coast 10 days ago.

Napolitano on Sept. 6 personally expressed gratitude to North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Kevin Ezell.

"She called to say how much she appreciates everything Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are doing and to acknowledge that our efforts are a key part of the response," Ezell said. "The investment Southern Baptists have made in disaster relief over the years has helped us become a key partner in times of crisis. I am grateful for all of our partners who make this happen. We know that many needs will be met and that ultimately many lives will be impacted with the Gospel."

Fred Luter, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans, said "without a doubt, disaster relief is one of the things we're really good at and that I'm most proud of," when told of Napolitano's call. "It's unbelievable that seven years to the day both Hurricanes Katrina and now Isaac hit our area. We're still trying to rebuild from Katrina."

"By the grace of God, New Orleans didn't flood this time, but we can identify with the folks in Plaquemines Parish and LaPlace," said Luter, adding that 60 of his church members were going to the New Orleans hard-hit suburb of LaPlace to help on Saturday (Sept. 8). "I look forward to seeing those yellow shirts tomorrow."

SBD feeding teams have cooked and delivered more than



**HELLO** — Mississippi Disaster Relief Task Force volunteer Donna Swarts (left), a member of Goodwater Church, Magee, greets Juliet and Mark Honore of Chalmette, La., at a FEMA Disaster Aid Application Center in Chalmette. (NAMB Photo)

130,500 meals at field kitchens in Baton Rouge, Kenner, Covington, Houma, Westwego, Belle Chasse, and Slidell, La., and in Long Beach and Pascagoula, Miss., since Isaac hit.

Jim Dillake, director of men's ministries at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson and coordinator of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, reported Sept. 10 that the Mississippi Baptist feeding units have returned from the Long Beach and Pascagoula locations but mud-out crews continue to work along the Gulf Coast.

Isaac-related outreach has led to at least five professions of faith and nine other faith-related decisions. SBD has recorded 78 chainsaw, 54 mud-out, and 8 roofing jobs; provided almost 2,200 showers and laundry loads

for victims and volunteers; provided childcare for 41 children; and made 2,231 ministry contacts and 47 Gospel presentations.

Feeding units deployed to date have come from Louisiana, Texas (Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and Texas Baptist Men), Arkansas, Mississippi, and Oklahoma.

Southern Baptist feeding kitchens from the six state conventions have the capacity to prepare up to 225,000 meals a day in Louisiana and Mississippi. After SBD volunteers cook and package the meals, the American Red Cross (ARC) and The Salvation Army deliver the food to flood victims.

In addition to feeding operations, disaster relief volunteers representing state conventions are deployed in Louisiana, includ-

ing groups from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas (SBTC and Texas Baptist Men), and Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

Volunteers are busy assessing damages; doing mud-out, chainsaw and other recovery jobs; providing childcare for victims; providing shower and laundry units; chaplaincy and power generation.

A South Carolina DR team is serving at the ARC incident command in Baton Rouge. Texas Baptist Men (TBM), led by TBM state disaster relief director Terry Henderson, is staffing NAMB's incident command center at First Church, Covington, La. A second NAMB incident command center is based at Lake Forest Church in New Orleans.

In a response to a FEMA request, SBD is providing childcare facilities and volunteers at FEMA Disaster Aid Application Centers in Belle Chasse, La. (TBM), Chalmette, La. (TBM), Mathews, La., (Missouri DR), Slidell, La. (Mississippi DR), and New Orleans (SBTC).

From its disaster operations center in Alpharetta, NAMB coordinates and manages Southern Baptist responses to major disasters through a partnership between NAMB and the Southern Baptist Convention's 42 affiliated state conventions, most of which have their own state disaster relief programs.

SBD assets include 82,000 trained volunteers, including chaplains, and some 1,550 mobile units for feeding, chainsaw, mud-out, command, communication, childcare, shower, laundry, water purification, repair/rebuild and power generation. SBD is one of the three largest mobilizers of trained disaster relief volunteers in the United States, including the ARC and The Salvation Army.

**Editor's note:** The Disaster Relief Task Force of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is now accepting donations for hurricane relief as the 2012 hurricane season picks up speed with named storm Isaac. Tax-deductible donations should be mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line. Donations can also be made online from this page.

For more information, contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at [cwright@mbcb.org](mailto:cwright@mbcb.org). Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. For disaster relief updates, visit [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

## Christian child makes bail in Pakistan; lawyer fears for her safety

**LAHORE, Pakistan (BP)** — A Pakistani court has granted bail to a Christian girl accused of blasphemy, but her lawyer says he will not seek her release until her security can be guaranteed.

The Telegraph reported that Judge Muhammad Azam Khan set bail of one million rupees (about \$10,000) for Rimsha Masih, who has been imprisoned for three weeks on charges of desecrating the Quran.

While prosecuting attorneys argued that blasphemy suspects are not entitled to bail, Masih's defense said she was a minor and should be set free.

In a development that illustrates the mortal danger surrounding blasphemy accusations, one of Masih's lawyers says he will allow her to remain in prison until arrangements can be made for her safety.

"She is at grave risk in the sense that the people who managed this whole drama and fabricated the evidence against her most certainly wish her harm," Raja Ikram, one of Masih's lead defense lawyers, told the Guardian, claiming Masih

will need bodyguards and an armored vehicle to protect her.

Masih's case has drawn international scrutiny since she was arrested three weeks ago for allegedly desecrating the Quran, a crime that carries a life sentence in Pakistan. A young man in Masih's neighborhood claimed he saw her carrying a trash bag with burnt pages of the Quran, and police arrested the girl after an irate mob demanded action and threatened to burn her alive.

Since then, the Muslim imam in Masih's neighborhood has been arrested for planting evidence against her. That coupled with her age and mental state (an official medical review determined she is roughly 14 and has mental difficulties) has brought even conservative Muslim clerics to her defense.

Paul Bhatti, who heads Pakistan's Ministry of National Harmony, hailed the support of Muslim leaders in Masih's case. "I am very hopeful for that and very happy that justice has prevailed," he told the Washington Post, also saying that ar-

rangements had been made to move Masih to a secret location upon her release.

The head of Human Rights Watch in Pakistan also praised the bail decision, telling the Associated Press that Masih should never have been arrested.

"All charges against her should be dropped, and Pakistan's criminal justice system should instead concentrate on holding her accuser accountable for inciting violence against the child and members of the local Christian community," Ali Dayan Hasan said.

According to the Guardian, Christians in Masih's neighborhood are on edge, subjected to derogatory treatment and forced to close their churches.

"Many people are leaving," Naeem Masih, a 20-year-old painter, told the Guardian. "Rimsha was just the tip of acrimony that has been developing for a long time. The situation may be normal for the time being but it will reoccur."

The girl's parents are in protective custody, likely to protect them from murderous vigilantes, who in the past have

killed blasphemy suspects and those defending them. In a statement quoted by the advocacy group Avaaz, Masih's father lamented the violence and intimidation surrounding his daughter's case.

"We are a poor Christian family, witnessing mob fury over my daughter's case," he said, "and many other families have faced similar intimidation forcing them to either flee or live in fear."

Masih's case has raised calls to reform Pakistan's blasphemy laws, which critics say are often used to persecute religious minorities or settle personal vendettas. No action on the laws is expected, and opposing them can be deadly.

Last year, Salman Taseer, the governor of Punjab province and a critic of the blasphemy laws, was gunned down by his own bodyguard, who was praised by many Pakistanis for defending Islam.

Shahbaz Bhatti, who at the time was Pakistan's minority affairs minister and is the brother of Paul Bhatti, was also assassinated by Islamic extremists after calling for reform of the laws.

Recently, I was behind a car waiting on the light to change. It was a good looking, late model car and I looked at the license plate. It had a personalized vanity tag on it which always fascinates me because I try to figure out what people are trying to say. Oftentimes, they use a few consonants or letters instead of words and tell the story of their life. This tag intrigued me because it said, "Wuz Hiz." I wondered what that meant. I wanted to think that probably the man had shopped for a new car, bought this one, and brought it home thinking that he was going to drive it. Then his wife told him that he could drive the old, beat-up car with 194,000 miles on it because she was going to drive the new one. In my mind, this loving and caring guy said, "Well honey, if you want it, you sure can drive it." In that scenario I was giving him all of the benefit of the doubt and seeing what was taking place in a loving, caring, and healthy relationship between a husband and his wife.

Of course, the more skeptical and maybe practical side of my thought process said this couple probably did love each other, cared about each other, shared a lot of good things - kids, cars, homes, dreams, and the future until something went wrong. They decided they did not want to share kids, house, dreams, cars, and the steps toward divorce began to take place. Now if I am anywhere close to correct, the loving relationship was forgotten about and rather than a passion of loving and caring about each other, their marriage had turned into a passion of bitterness toward each other. The decisions being made were those that simply involved what I am going to get out of this. If my assumption is somewhere near to



## Wuz Hiz

being right, the lady driving this car ended up with the vehicle with a tag that now says, "Wuz Hiz."

Whether or not my assumptive thought process is correct or not, what I do know is that about half of all marriages end in divorce. I do know that when that takes place love often turns to hate. The concern for the other mate turns to total concern for me and is the substance of most divorces. While I am certainly aware of the fact that there are other huge issues that enter into divorce such as crimes, abuse, and habitual and unresolved infidelity, it is hard-heartedness and self-centeredness which drives most of the divorces to the conclusion of the marriage. That is why Moses gave to the people of his day a writing of divorce and said the reason was because of the "hardness of your hearts from the beginning it was not so." That is why when Jesus was grilled

about the place of divorce in His day, He told the people that God did not want that but because they were determined to have their own way and because of the hardness of their hearts that the marriage would breakup and divorce was their answer to marriage problems.

It is still the prominent feature in marriages coming apart. One or both of the spouses get a fixed, unchangeable position and do not care or give consideration for the other. Ultimately, that attitude will destroy a relationship. When that happens, it is only the beginning. The question becomes how much of my way am I going to get. The battleground generally will include the children, the house, the things, the money, and maybe as in this case the car. So when the settlement all takes place, you can buy a vanity tag that in two words tells a tragic story, "Wuz Hiz."

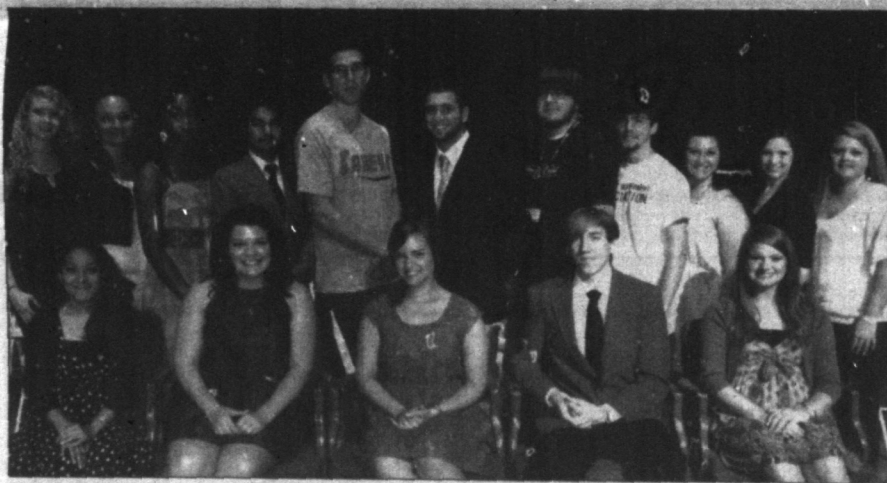
Of course, I guess there is a car some-

where with a tag on it that may say, "Wuz Hers!" The declaration of who gets the car and the ownership of it is a minor detail of all of the other things that are lost in the divorce settlement. Everyone connected with that couple loses some valuable things. The parents that are involved, the grandparents, the children, the friends, the work associates, and often just casual distant acquaintances are hurt by the process and lose something. That is why Jesus said, "from the beginning that is not what God desired or intended." God intended and longed for the relationship to be fulfilling, supportive, uplifting, and ultimately and supremely God honoring. For those who may be thinking well that is not easy to do, I would say that you are right, but I would quickly tell you as anyone who has been through a divorce would agree that going through a divorce is not easy either.

In addition to a multiplicity of things that you might lose, are a multitude of things that you may not even consider. A divorce, any divorce will take its toll on the individual mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. It is hard to calculate those things when you think that you have got to get a divorce, but long-term you may discover that the easy way out is to stay in. Not just to stay in and suffer in a bad marriage but to seek the Lord for His help and His hope to get you through and to lead you to a new day and a new way. In that case you may keep the car and buy you a vanity plate that instead of "Wuz Hiz" it says, "Hiz Way" to celebrate the goodness of God at work in your hearts and in your home.

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

## College News



**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** announced its Student Government Association (SGA) officers and representatives for the 2012-2013 academic year during Opening Convocation on August 27. The officers and representatives are (front row, left to right) Nistha Pradhan of Lalitpur, Nepal, treasurer; Nina Tessin of Richland Hills, Texas, chief justice; Marian Mauseth of Indianola, vice president; Colton Lee of Poplarville, chief of staff and commissioner of student affairs; and Brooke Morgan of Hickory, commissioner of entertainment. (back row, left to right) Heather Argenbright of Petal, junior representative; Alyssa Bond of Perkinston, junior representative; Pearl Ugwu-Dike of Hattiesburg, justice; Anit Gyawali of Kathmandu, Nepal, justice; Fernando Garcia of Metepec, Mexico, international representative; Patrick Earley of Raceland, La., president; Quinton Soronen, Collinsville, senior representative; Landon Adams of Carthage, sophomore representative; Courtney Daley of Carson, senior representative; Caitlin Cooksey of Collinsville, sophomore representative; and Micah Rand of Tylertown, justice. Other officers and representatives include (not pictured) Deepali Amatya of Lalitpur, Nepal, commissioner of elections; Bibhusha Pradhan of Kathmandu, Nepal, international representative; Shweta Rai Sotang of Lalitpur, Nepal, justice, and Kelsey Wells of Monticello, secretary.

## BIBL I O C I P H E R

MH UHB BDLUW BDRB L YLPP RKKIZG

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BDRB RKKIZGBD AHI, GOGU CHZGZ, LU

YDHC AG BXIZB.

SHDU TLOG: THXBA-TLOG

Clue: B = T

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalms Twenty-four: One

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Director of Missions

The Mid-South Baptist Association is prayerfully seeking a Director of Missions. Send resume by October 15, 2012 to 6896 US Hwy. 70, Bartlett, TN 38133 or email to [domsearchteam@msbac.org](mailto:domsearchteam@msbac.org).

MSBA is an independent and sovereign association in itself, and respects the autonomy of the local congregation. We conform to the doctrine, policy and practice as expressed in the current Baptist Faith and Message.

Mid-South Baptist Association is a regional association made up of over 180 affiliated diverse churches with a total membership of over 60,000 baptized members from Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Kentucky. We are a fellowship of Southern Baptist churches committed to the Great Commission. In order to fulfill this mission our operational emphases are: (1) Church Planting and Revitalization, (2) Church Leadership Development, (3) Church Mobilization and (4) Associational Resource Development.



## Letters to the Editor

Unsigned letters will not be printed. Multi-copy and form letters will not be printed.

Each correspondent must include a home address and home telephone number for verification. Cell phone numbers are not acceptable. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing. Correspondents must refrain from personal attacks, offensive characterizations, and political partisanship. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

There is no guarantee that an individual's letter will be published. No more than one letter from an individual will be published during a six-month period.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that issue will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### Thanks for support

For several weeks we have enjoyed blackberries, catfish, and the morning calls of woodpeckers. During our 30 years of mission service in Asia, we have looked forward to renewing these mockingbird memories. This trip, however, is different because we are retiring as missionaries and moving to San Francisco where Don will direct the Kim School of Global Missions at Golden Gate Seminary.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists. First Church, Holly Springs, and First Church, Brookhaven, disciples us as children. You supported our education at Mississippi College and Golden Gate Seminary. Don's first ministry job was at Ridgcrest Church in Jackson. Our first overseas mission experiences took place through a Mississippi Baptist Student Union. Many prayed for us as we planted churches in high-rise apartments in Singapore and then prayed for our people, the Sundanese, after we moved to Indonesia. We served in leadership for a hundred missionary teams in Southeast Asia and later the Pacific Rim with the confidence that Mississippi Baptists were faithful in supporting us. First Church, Parkway Church, and Morrison Heights Church, all in Clinton, and First Church, Jackson, provided housing. The Macedonian Call Foundation of Mississippi provided vehicles during our stateside assignments. We cannot count the ways that Mississippi Baptists have blessed us.

God has blessed this mission partnership. We are living in the most exciting generation of global mission advance in history. We pray that you will continue to support those whom God is sending to the nations until He appears. Let the nations be glad!

Don and Anne Dent  
Brookhaven

### Counterproductive

Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page's plan to bring together groups within the convention who hold different views of Calvinism seems to me to be counterproductive. He says, "This is not an attempt to redo the theological consensus that we have in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. It is practical not doctrinal." He also speaks of working together in missions and evangelism.

The very word evangelism means, "Zealous preaching and dissemination of the Gospel, as through missionary work." Evangelize has its end "to convert to Christianity." What would a Calvinist tell a person about the working of the Word of God in the role of salvation? Or what would a Calvinist say to John 3:16 that "...WHO SOEVER believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

If one looks at the doctrine of Calvinism it is explained in the acrostic, TULIP. For lack of space, I will not discuss Irresistible grace, Unconditional election, and Limited atonement. I only point out that this doctrine is totally opposed to the Baptist Faith and Message and is like trying to mix oil and water.

I hope The Baptist Record will not continue to promote Page's project in the tone of FOX News' "fair and balanced" slogan. Some groups holding different opinions from Calvinism are called Southern Baptist.

I wish that Page would spend his time helping to ground Southern Baptists in the theological consensus that we have in the Baptist Faith and Message.

Bruce Hill  
Lexington

## Just for the Record



**SEMINARY CHURCH, SEMINARY,** presented Bibles to its first graders Aug. 26. Shown are children's ministry director Trish Charpentier, Cody Aultman, Garret McQueen, Sarah Holifield, Riley Wilson, Asher Shoemake, Eli McNair, Will Seal, and pastor Tim Hubbard.



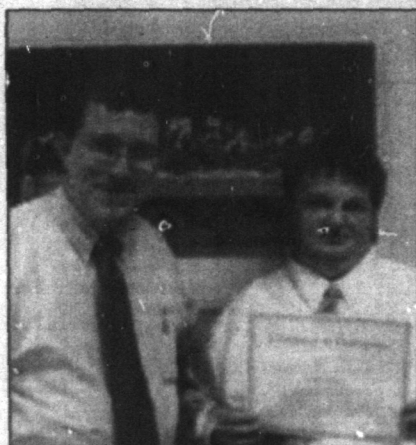
**FIRST CHURCH, COLUMBUS,** honored its children entering the first grade with Bibles. Ray Ann Carlisle, children's director, made the presentation.



**AUBURN CHURCH, LEE COUNTY ASSOCIATION,** held a deacon ordination service for Wade Keith and Mark Curtis. Jimmy Henry, pastor.

## Just for the Record

**SEMINARY CHURCH, SEMINARY,** held a parent/child dedication service Aug. 12. Shown are the participants.



**FIRST CHURCH, LUMBERTON,** ordained Allen Killough as deacon Aug. 26. Shown are pastor John Sapp and Killough.



**MORGAN CHAPEL CHURCH, STURGIS,** ordained Jeremy Tate to the deacon ministry. Shown are Audrey Tate, Tate, and pastor Gary Roberson.



**VALLEY PARK CHURCH, VALLEY PARK,** surprised pastor Ronnie Purser with an appreciation day recently. He began his 4th year of service in January.

**CARTERVILLE CHURCH, PETAL,** ordained three men to the ministry. Shown are pastor Leland Hogan, Chase Coleman, Mike Hogan, and Jeremy Stroo.



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## Just for the Record



**NAVILLA CHURCH, MCCOMB,** ordained Hance Westmoreland and Les Fortenberry as deacons Aug. 19. Shown are Westmoreland, Fortenberry, and pastor Larry Romack.



**CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO,** honored 20 GA girls with a recognition service. Hal Hatten, pastor.

Seven men from **HOLLY CHURCH, ALCORN,** participated in a mission trip to Ukraine. The group worked with local missionaries to spread the gospel via hosting a baseball camp.



The drama team of **BRIAR HILL CHURCH, FLORENCE,** will present *The Lifestyle Shoppe* Sept. 30, 2 and 5:30 p.m. Free.



**UNION CHURCH, TYLERTOWN,** ordained Greg Touchstone, seventh from left.

### In other Church News:

► **Liberty Church, Flowood,** will host the Beth Moore Living Proof Live simulcast Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Cost, \$20. For more information, call (601) 992-0345 or e-mail office@lbcflowood.org.

Danny V. Ray, guest leader. For more information, contact Carol Wright at (800) 748-1651, ext. 334.

► **Clear Springs Church, Coffeeville,** will host a gospel singing featuring Stronghold Sept. 22, 7 p.m. Love offering; finger foods.

► The GAs and RAs of **Mt. Pisgah Church, Sandhill,** hosted a bake sale to raise funds for the Christmas in August Missionaries. \$453 was collected.

► **The Fall Chaplains' Training for professional and volunteer chaplains** will be held Sept. 21, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Skyroom of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Cost, \$10.00.

## Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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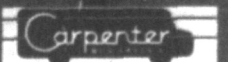
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## Vacation Bible School



**EAGLE LAKE CHURCH, VICKSBURG:** June 18 – 22; average attendance, 41; five professions of faith.



**HOLLY BLUFF CHURCH, HOLLY BLUFF:** June 18 – 22.



**SLAYDEN CHURCH, MARSHALL ASSOCIATION:** Enrollment, 108; teachers and helpers, 75; mission offering of \$1000 to missions work in South Asia. Lisa Jones, director.

## Staff Changes



**FIRST CHURCH, OLCH, SUMRALL,** has called John Innabnit as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Andrea, and children Jessica, Presto, and Corey.

### In other Staff Changes News:

► **Richburg Church, Hattiesburg,** recently called Ken Adams as minister of music and Brendan Sewell as minister of youth. Paul A. Roney, Sr., pastor.

## Submission Guidelines



The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time or by. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## Revivals & Homecomings

► **First Church, Glendale, Hattiesburg:** Homecoming, Sept. 16; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered-dish luncheon; Brandon and Tammy Baker, Philbeck, speakers; McKay Pearce, music; Jimmy Hill, pastor.

► **Sand Hill Church, West:** Revival, Sept. 16 - 19; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; children and youth night, Mon., with pizza, 6 p.m.; family night Tues.; fellowship meal Wed., 6 p.m.; Ed Newman, speaker; The Howards, music.

► **Ephesus Church, Forest:** 125th anniversary, Sept. 16; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Sonny Adkins, speaker; Dusty Rhodes, music; Jim Everett, pastor.

► **New Providence Church, Carthage:** Homecoming, Sept. 16; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch and a cemetery meeting; Smith Sanders, pastor and speaker.

► **Clifton Church, Forest:** 100th anniversary, Sept. 16; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; wor-

ship, 10:45 a.m., followed by afternoon singing and 2 p.m. service; former pastors and pastor Andy Boles, speakers; Hosanna, music.

► **Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale:** Revival, Sept. 16 - 19, 6 p.m.; churchwide fellowship Sept. 19 following worship service; Stan May, speaker; Hugh Plunkett, music.

► **Chunky Church, Chunky:** Revival, Sept. 16 - 19; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Brian Rushing, speaker.

► **First Church, Potts Camp:** Revival, Sept. 15 - 19; James Lewis, speaker; Andy Roe, music; Paul Hicks, pastor; for information, call (601) 333-7602.

► **Crestview Church, Petal:** Revival, Sept. 16 - 20; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; Freddie McCoy, speaker; Landon Roney, music; Stephen Smith, pastor.

► **O'Zion Church, Meadville:** Revival, Sept. 14 - 16; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Mike Morris, speaker; Billy Smith, music; Glenn Bird, pastor.

## MS POSITIONS

TWIN LAKES BAPTIST, MADISON, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Please mail resume to 673 Lake Cavalier Road, Madison, MS 39110 or email to cindyhol2002@yahoo.com

BELLEVUE BAPTIST CHURCH, HATTIESBURG, MS IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR A PART-TIME SECRETARY. Send resume to: 7173 Highway 98 West, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, WESSON, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to Zion Hill Baptist Church, Attention: Youth Minister Search Committee, 8081 Martinsville, Rd., Wesson, MS 39191 or e-mail info@zionhills-wesson.org

FBC OF PEARL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Contact Pastor Scott Crawford at Scottcrawford01@msn.com

FBC INDIANOLA, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please mail resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 366, Indianola, MS 38751 or e-mail them to fbcindianola@gmail.com

VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, VAIDEN, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER/ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Interested parties may submit resumes by mail to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Vaiden Baptist Church, 501 Mulberry Street, Vaiden, MS 39176.

OUR PASTOR OF TWENTY-SIX YEARS, BRO. DALE EASLEY, HAS TAKEN RETIREMENT AFTER SUFFERING A STROKE. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VARDAMAN, OF VARDAMAN, MS, HAS FORMED A PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE AND WILL BE TAKING RESUMES FOR THIS POSITION. If you are interested, please call the church office (662) 682-7458 or e-mail fbcv@tds.net.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## CAUSEY

cont. from p. 1

director-treasurer 1989. He retired from the convention board in September of 1998.

"Instead of preaching on a topic, I always tried to reach people for the Lord. You just never know who is going to show up at a worship service in need of the Savior," Causey said in the last weeks of his life. He also said that he rededicated his life to the Lord each day.

Included in his professional and civic leadership, he was nominated as an Outstanding Young Man in Meridian and Jackson, was president of the Civitan Club, was state chaplain of Civitan, and was a National Distinguished Alumnus of Southern Seminary.

He also served as a trustee for 10 years for Southern Seminary and a trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson for 21 years. He was a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and served two terms as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

In 1990, Causey was inducted into the Order of the Golden Arrow at Mississippi College and received the National Scouting Award. He was an Eagle Scout. MC also conferred a Doctor of Divinity degree in 1968. In 1997, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in Sociology from MC. In 2009, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in Bible from MC.

He also received the Service to Humanity Award, served on the Mayor's Council on Government Change, and served on the Health Care Economic Forum.

Causey is survived by three children and two grandchildren: son, Billy Causey and wife Mary Leigh of Clinton; daughter Carol and husband Keith Turner of Clinton; daughter Carley Causey of Clinton; grandson Bill Causey III of Clinton; and grandson John Causey of Hattiesburg.

## HARVEY

cont. from p. 1

worked in Jordan for 24 years, teaching English and other subjects. Ten years ago she founded the ESL language center where she taught in Irbid, Jordan's second-largest city and home to several universities.

The center, which averages between 300-400 college students each semester, is so popular that a lottery system is used to determine which students can apply for entrance. Previously, Harvey taught primary school-age children at the Ajloun (Jordan) Baptist School.

Teaching wasn't just a job for Harvey; it was a passion. Co-workers had to pressure her to take a vacation once in a while. "God has given me the ability to teach," she said.

"It's obvious that they love her because they feel her love for them," a friend observed.

Despite her relentless work schedule, Harvey made time to connect with her students as a friend and mentor. "What was so amazing to me about Cheryl was that she could be the director of the center and teach full time and make numerous visits every week [to her students' homes]," said a colleague.

"In my whole life I've never known anybody who could pack one day with as much as Cheryl constantly did."

She spent many hours of her own time tutoring Jordanian high school students to pass the high-stakes, comprehensive exams that determine who graduates, who gets into college, and what they will study.

She helped one student struggle through nursing school, even studying medical terms and textbooks to tutor him more effectively. He respected Harvey so deeply that he asked her to visit the family of his prospective bride to help him decide if she would be a suitable wife.

"She had such a gentle and mild spirit," said a friend. "She was a person that people could come to."

It was the same with her younger students at the Baptist school in Ajloun. "Cheryl was known throughout the village," recalled a co-worker. "She visited in the homes of all of her students. She even showed up at students' homes when they weren't expecting her."

"Cheryl was all about the people. She spent a large portion of every year visiting her students, making sure that she went into the home of every single student."

A colleague asked Southern Baptists to pray for the many people touched by Harvey's life.

"Cheryl was a gentle person who loved Jesus," he said. "She showed that love to Jordanians, first to the many children she taught in Ajloun and their families and then to those in Irbid as she taught English."

"She connected with her people at the heart level. We pray that her witness continues to bear much fruit. Cheryl's life has crossed the finish line. She was faithful through the end of this life and to the beginning of her real life."

Tom Elliff, president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., also appealed for prayer.

"We pray for her immediate family members in Texas, and for her family members and friends around the world, but especially in Jordan," Elliff said. "The impact of Cheryl's life will live on for eternity."

"For Cheryl's assailant and his family, we pray God's mercy and grace to invade the dark corners of his heart. For us, Cheryl's death brings us face to face with the urgent importance of our work. With every word, thought, and action, we must glorify the One who purchased our salvation."

## NADARKHANI

cont. from p. 1

after a long incarceration," CSW chief executive Mervyn Thomas said. "We commend the Iranian judiciary for this step, which is a triumph for justice and the rule of law."

"While we rejoice at this wonderful news, we do not forget hundreds of others who are harassed or unjustly detained on account of their faith, and CSW is committed to continue campaigning until all of Iran's religious minorities are able to enjoy religious freedom as guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is party."

The White House, the U.S. State Department, and governments around the world had spoken up for Nadarkhani. He was arrested in October 2009

while registering his church in Rasht, Iran, although he initially was arrested for protesting his children being taught Islam in school, ACLU reported.

He was charged with apostasy for supposedly abandoning Islam and later was given a death sentence. He was also charged at one time with sexual crimes, although those charges were later dropped.

In September 2011, Nadarkhani was given four chances to recant his faith in court and refused each time. ACLU reported one of his court exchanges:

"Repent means to return. What should I return to? To the blasphemy that I had before my faith in Christ?" Nadarkhani asked.

"To the religion of your ancestors, Islam," the judge reportedly replied.

"I cannot," the pastor responded.

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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**AUGUST 2012**

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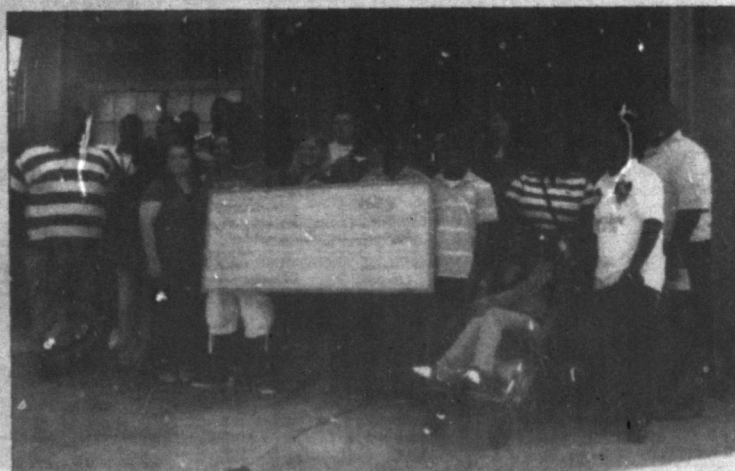
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**Mr. Tom Petty**  
**Geneva Gardner**  
**Mr. Bobby C. Gardner**  
**Lewis W. "Buster" Gerald**  
**Mrs. Linda S. Campbell**  
**Ad. III Ladies Unity BC**  
**Men's SSC, Unity BC**  
**Mr. & Mrs. James E. Harrington**  
**Mr. & Mrs. H. B. McKnight Jr.**  
**Jan Prescott Walsh**  
**Thomas Z. "Hoot" Gipson**  
**Sharon & Herman Dungan**  
**Dorothy Mae Grisham**  
**The McLendon Family**  
**John Pat Grubbs**  
**J. Johnston SSC, Park**  
**Place BC**  
**Carr Haskins**  
**Mrs. Tena Haskins**  
**Susan Haskins**  
**Mrs. Tena Haskins**  
**Mrs. Charlotte Hays**  
**Rhea & Nell Pierce Pierce**  
**Mrs. Floyd Hitt**  
**Mr. Bill Callender**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton**  
**Bobby & Jeanette Reed**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E. Breakfield Sr.**  
**H. R. (Dick) Hodges**  
**Paul & Lavenia Bullard**  
**Carl Hoeksema**  
**Men's SSC, Good Hope BC**

**Golden Cir SSC, Good Hope BC**  
**John Homod**  
**Mr. Robert E. Stevens**  
**Wendy Marie Honea**  
**Don & Suzanne Honea**  
**Wayne & Janice Honea**  
**Mr. Doug Howton**  
**Mrs. Dot G. Griffin**  
**Mrs. Elwin Hulett**  
**Mrs. Dot G. Griffin**  
**Mark Jackson**  
**Mrs. Charlotte Vickers**  
**Mrs. James A. (Gunelle) Jackson**  
**Mrs. Jo Ann R. Stone**  
**Ms. Ouida Jarrell**  
**FBC Nicholson**  
**Dr. Ernest Johnson**  
**Lydia SSC, FBC Clinton**  
**Frances Jones**  
**Ad. IV SSC of McCool BC**  
**McCool BC**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur L. Brunt**  
**Mildred Jones**  
**Concord BC, McCall Creek**  
**Mrs. Faye Jordan**  
**Mrs. Dot G. Griffin**  
**Mrs. Mary Kerby**  
**Jimmy & Jo Jenkins**  
**Mrs. Wilma Kidd**  
**Mr. Henry W. Drew**  
**John R. Kiker**  
**Jimmy & Gail Bruton**  
**Mr. & Mrs. David Furr**  
**Mr. Charles W. Holmes**  
**Ed Killen**  
**Ms. Lena A. Watkins**  
**George M. Knight**  
**Dale & Sharon Hays**  
**Margaret LaFon**  
**Mr. Ronald LaFon**  
**Martha Laird**  
**Jerry & Janie Sisco**  
**Mrs. Beulah Lane**  
**Mrs. Shirley Hewitt**  
**Doris B. Linton**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Ellis**  
**Cynthia G. Long**  
**Rob & Mary Bixey**  
**Velma Griffin Long**  
**J. Sudduth SSC, FBC**  
**Pontotoc**  
**Darlene Luther**  
**Ms. Nancy F. Patrick**  
**Mrs. Alma Rea Manchester**  
**Gerald & Betty Wigington**  
**Charly Marchant**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram**  
**Charlie Marks**  
**Ms. Nathalie Marks**



**KOKOMO BAPTIST CHURCH** visited the Dickerson Place Campus in Brookhaven to deliver laundry supplies collected in their church. They also helped with some work projects and did fun activities with the children.



Thank you to the **CRYSTAL SPRINGS VO-TECH STUDENTS** who chose The BCV to benefit from the \$360 raised in their class marketing project.



## Living in a New Household • 1 Peter 2:1-10

When we become Christians we become members of God's Family. As God's children, we need to take our relationship to Him seriously, or we will live lives that are not pleasing to Him. Three words can help us understand "Living in God's Household".

### 1. DESIRE (1 Peter 2:2, KJV)

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

God doesn't force feed new Christians. The Holy Spirit creates the desire in us to obey God, and His word reveals what He expects of us. But we as Christians must choose to study and apply the truths of God's word to our lives if we want to be rightly related to Him.

As we grow in our relationship to God we will put off sinful things like ...malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander... (v. 1, NIV). If one lacks the desire to put off these sinful ways and grow in Christ, he should re-examine his salvation experience. It is possible to join the church and get baptized without receiving Christ as Lord and Savior. Philippians 2:13 says ...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose (NIV). If a true Christian fails to grow, he is clearly living out of the will of God and will face

God's discipline.

### 2. DESCRIPTION (1 Peter 2:4-5, NIV)

As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him, you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Peter uses the analogy of a house to describe Christ and the church. Jesus is called the Living Stone. In verse six Peter refers to Jesus as the cornerstone. To understand this concept, you must understand that a cornerstone was the starting point of the foundation of a house. The rest of the foundation and the whole house were made plumb and level based on the cornerstone. If the other stones are out of line with the cornerstone, the house will not be sound.

Peter is saying here that Jesus and His teachings are the standard for all of life and religious activity. Everything built to please God must look to Jesus and be built in line with Him.

He goes on to say that when you are saved you too become living stones in God's building. You look to Christ

for direction, then others look to you as they look to Him. The degree to which you and other members of your church

represent Christ is the degree to which you and your church will be giving glory to God.

Our purpose as Christians is to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Our goal is to please Him. We must put off our sinful, selfish desires and commit ourselves to growing in Christ through His Word to please God.

### 3. DUTY (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Peter reminds us that those who are saved are saved for a purpose ...that

you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light..." (v. 9, NIV).

We are called to live for God's glory and not our own. We are called to live as examples to the lost people around us (v. 12). Peter says that the godliness of our lives, along with our testimony for Christ, will cause some to turn to Christ. Put another way, the salvation of some depends on our commitment to preach the gospel and practice what we preach. This is a duty we must accept and carry out willingly.

In countries that have a monarchy, the royal family often realizes that they have a duty to give back to their people. In America, the very wealthy often realize this same duty. They volunteer to serve on boards or in civic organizations as a community service.

Peter says to the Christian, But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God (1 Peter 2:9, NIV). We may not be the wealthiest people in the community, but as Christians we are members of the royal family. As such we have a duty to live in such a way that serves our community, sets a Christian example, and brings glory to God.

Bishop is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

## Right Relationships • Matthew 7:1-12

Jesus continues and concludes his sermon on right relationships with others and with God, teaching the disciples to learn to live by faith and not by laws. The disciples learned from being with Jesus physically, day to day, seeing him overcome fatigue, praying, fasting, healing and learning about the sufficiency of God's grace. To be a useful Christian we must practice what Jesus taught in his sermon on the mount. Begone with the pretentious righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees but instead, be like your loving Father in heaven.

Vs. 1-5 speak to not being hypocritical when you make judgments. It's pretty clear we can't criticize others' faults while pretending we ourselves are faultless. The not so subtle example Jesus gave has resounded many times around the world. It would be hard not to notice someone with a 2 X 12' board of timber poking out of one's eye while he criticizes a particle of sawdust he sees in another's eye.

"In the same way you judge others, you will be judged..." (NIV Study Bible) We are to have concern for the speck in another's eye but the point is deal with your own sins first. We are held responsible for others, but we need to know the standards by which we can

hold them accountable in the faith. Jesus is here instructing us how to be prepared. Once you have removed the log from your own eye, your vision will greatly improve and you are now able to improve your friend's vision and perception. The overriding goal of Christianity is to help others be good. Not much is accomplished by criticism, so counsel him, love him, help him, but don't take on the role of God. Put away that measuring rod you're using.

Verse 6 is not spoken against evangelizing the Gentiles. Dogs and pigs are used to describe persons who have rejected the gospel. The gospel of the kingdom is sacred and therefore is forbidden to be trampled on. In Biblical writings pigs are unclean and wild, and dogs are associated with that which is unclean. Pigs will trample on pearls, and that which is considered sacred by us evokes disgust from dogs. We are not to spend

much time with those found to be obstinate or profane after sharing the gospel, but with discretion, turn to others. Hardened scorners are not fertile ground and many will return with "the dog to his vomit." V. 6 does not excuse us from sharing the gospel with unbelievers due to fear of being turned down, but we are to become

discerners about when and how often to confront unbelievers with the good news.

### Vs. 7-10

Now comes the exhortation to prayer. First pray for the glory of God, and receive the gifts such as righteousness, humility, love, etc. Three imperatives - ask, and it shall be given (not lent, not sold; ask and have), seek and you shall find (God himself is found by those who seek, and when we find him, we have enough), and knock (and it shall be opened - if not on the first knock, then continue in prayer). We fall short of true discipleship when we don't ask, seek

or knock. Those gifts offered by the Sermon on the Mount are available to everyone who seeks to access the banquet table, whether Jew or Gentile, young or old, rich or poor, all are welcomed with open arms.

V 11 - A disciple of Christ must attain an attitude of perfect trust so you can ask and seek. Believe at all times that God is there and your dependence grows according to the strength of your conviction. He is there, He answers, He loves you, why worry? Since God knows what is best for us, we are to leave it with Him - "Father, thy will be done." Ask and it shall be given and the petitioning must come naturally and without timidity as a child asking for a drink of water.

V 12 - Finally Christ is teaching us what to know and believe and what to do toward God in particular and toward man in general. Do (action verb) to others as we desire from them. If its despicable to you, then don't do it to others. This goes back to the commandment "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" so both the OT and the NT agree in ordaining us to do as we would be done by. How golden is that?

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.

### Bible Studies for Life

with Evelyn Gibson



## Just for the Record

**BUNKER HILL CHURCH, COLUMBIA,** held an ordination service for David Brown Aug. 19. Shown are Brown, his wife Anita, and pastor Randy Gardner.



**LIBERTY HILL CHURCH, POPE,** recently held a baby dedication service. Shown are the participants with pastor Jay Anderson.

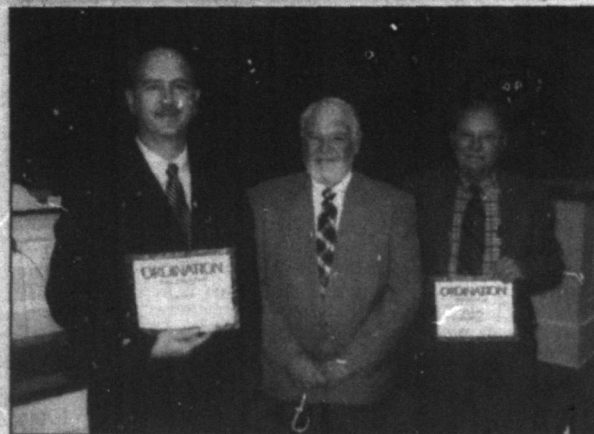
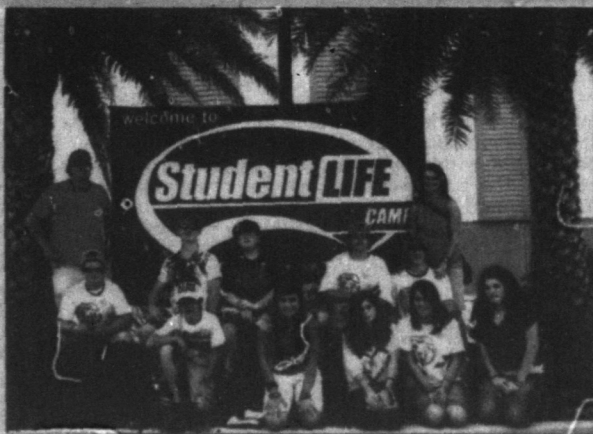


The WMU of **SILVER CREEK CHURCH, PIKE COUNTY,** labeled bottles for the watering hole at the Pike County Fair.



**IMMANUEL CHURCH, MID-DELTA ASSOCIATION,** held a Dad/Lad Fishing Rodeo. Shown are the participants; over 200 fish caught.

The youth from **CLIFF TEMPLE CHURCH, NATCHEZ,** attended Student Life Camp at Orange Beach, Ala., in July.



**EAST END CHURCH, COLUMBUS,** ordained Daniel Adams and Jim Long as deacons Aug. 12. Shown are Adams, pastor Albert Wilkerson, and Long.



**HANDBORO CHURCH, GULFPORT,** held a baby dedication Father's Day, June 17. Shown are participants Jason and Julie Krohn with Karlee; Matt and Jane Varner with Ava Grace; and Susan and Robert Strahan with Gracie. B.J. Bennett, pastor.

**CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO,** sent 14 girls to GA camp at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center. Leaders are Shirley Allen, Karen Fahner, and Pam Wallace. Hal Hatten, pastor.

